A New Measure of Reading Comprehension: DIBELS Daze

As part of the revisions made to DIBELS Next, DMG added a new measure of reading comprehension for third through sixth grades based on maze procedures.

The new measure, Daze, asks students to silently read a passage and choose one of three words that makes the most sense in the context of the passage. Items are presented approximately every seven words, making a careful reading of the passage necessary in order to consistently select the correct responses.

Because the measure is completed silently by each student, it can be administered to a group or individually depending on the needs of the school. The measure is timed for three minutes, meaning that administering Daze to an entire class could take as little as four minutes.

DIBELS author Ruth Kaminski said, “Considering that comprehension is the true goal of reading, we felt it was important to include an additional measure of comprehension to ensure that DIBELS does not underidentify any students who need support in order to understand what they read.”

Passages were developed by DMG to match the rigorous readability criteria of the DIBELS ORF passages. Once passages met the acceptable criteria for each grade, a computer program developed by DMG to meet particular specifications selected words to be test items and distractors.

Daze has been researched at multiple sites across the U.S. for the past three years. Benchmark goals for Daze will be released in August. Technical adequacy information, including correlations with DIBELS Oral Reading Fluency (including Retell), and the comprehension subtest of the GRADE outcome assessment, will appear in the DIBELS Next Technical Manual that will be available on DMG’s website in January 2011.

To download the new DIBELS Next materials, including Daze, visit http://dibels.org/.
New DIBELS Next Measure: First Sound Fluency

Since the publication of DIBELS 6th edition in 2003, DIBELS authors Roland Good and Ruth Kaminski have conducted research to find a reliable and valid measure of phonemic awareness for young children as an alternative to Initial Sound Fluency. The authors were motivated to find a measure that would rely on production responses by the child and eliminate guessing, and the need for pictures. They also hoped to develop an indicator that could use continuous timing instead of the intermittent timing used for Initial Sound Fluency. First Sound Fluency (FSF) was originally developed through a program of research beginning in 2004 by Drs. Ruth Kaminski and Sylvia Smith for use with preschool-age children.

During the measure, students are given simple, single-syllable words and asked to say the first sound in the word. Because it is easier for children to identify initial sound clusters in words, partial credit is also given to students who produce up to the first group of sounds in each target word. Timing is continuous for one minute.

Since the original research with preschoolers in 2004-2006, FSF has undergone four years of research at DMG prior to its inclusion in DIBELS Next. Results of research on FSF indicate that FSF is a reliable measure and correlates strongly with other measures of early phonemic awareness. The study also showed that FSF has a high level of user satisfaction among the educators administering the measure and using it to make instructional decisions. Complete technical adequacy of FSF will be reported in the DIBELS Next Technical Manual available from DMG in January 2011.

Similar to ISF, FSF is administered in the fall and winter of Kindergarten. Progress monitoring materials are also available for FSF. If you are interested in learning more about the FSF indicator, the DIBELS Next assessment materials and Administration Manual are available for free download at http://dibels.org.

DIBELS People: Maya O’Neil

Given the focus on DIBELS Next, the DIBELS Person for this edition is Maya O’Neil, Ph.D., Senior Data Analyst for DMG and part of the team of analysts that have helped analyze the technical adequacy of DIBELS Next.

Maya began working with DMG in 2008 on projects related to DIBELS Next such as First Sound Fluency. Her statistical expertise comes from years of training and experience at the University of Oregon where she received her doctorate in Counseling Psychology. She said, “Coming from the field of Psychology, one of the reasons I love working on DIBELS is the melding of direct service to children and a focus on rigorous research. Both because I love statistics and because I have never been patient enough to handle an entire classroom of students, I’ve found the perfect blend working at DMG: rigorous research methodology focused on improving children’s educational outcomes.”

Maya has also worked extensively on IDAPEL, the French version of DIBELS, and WUF-R, the experimental vocabulary measure that will be available in the fall of 2010 from DMG. “I loved working on WUF–R because of the complicated, theoretically driven analyses that we conducted,” Maya said.

Currently, Maya is involved in completing analyses related to DIBELS Deep, a diagnostic measure of early literacy skills in development by DMG. “I think it is very important to assure that all children, regardless of ability, are assessed in the most efficient and comprehensive manner possible. The development of DIBELS Deep seems like an integral component of a comprehensive assessment model.”
**When to start using DIBELS Next**

While DMG is very excited about the release of DIBELS Next, we understand that not all schools will be ready to begin using Next for the 2010–2011 school year. Here are some considerations when deciding whether or not to switch.

**If you are new to DIBELS**
If your school will begin using DIBELS for the first time this year, we highly recommend starting with DIBELS Next.

**If you still have DIBELS 6th Edition materials you want to use up**
Keep in mind that DIBELS 6th Edition and DIBELS Next materials are not compatible. If you have significant quantities of 6th materials you would like to use up, you may want to wait another year before transitioning to Next.

**If not all of the classes and/or grades in your school are ready to switch to Next**
We recommend waiting to use DIBELS Next until your entire school can commit to the transition. This will make the transition more efficient in terms of training and reporting. However, depending on how DIBELS is used in your district, not all schools in your district need to transition at the same time. Check with your data management service to be sure.

**If you use mCLASS: DIBELS on a Palm Pilot or other handheld device**
Wireless Generation recently announced its plans to launch mCLASS: DIBELS Next for the 2011–2012 school year. In order to provide your school with continuity in scoring and reporting, if you are currently using Wireless Generation’s mCLASS: DIBELS service, we recommend waiting until the 2011–2012 school year before transitioning to DIBELS Next. For more information, visit www.wirelessgeneration.com.

**If your school is not ready to use DIBELS Next in the fall**
We do not recommend schools transition to using DIBELS Next mid-school year. If your school is unable to begin using DIBELS Next in the fall, we recommend waiting until the 2011–2012 school year to transition to DIBELS Next.

Can’t find it on the web? Most articles can also be obtained by emailing info@dibels.org.

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**DIBELS® Tip of the Day**

**Which do you prefer?**

- A small spoonful of sugar
- Or a large帮助

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**DIBELS in the News**

3/12/10 (Gothenburg, NE): See how Gothenburg School District uses assessment results, including DIBELS, to examine the effectiveness of its curriculum and instruction in the Gothenburg Times article “Test data helps students learning.” www.gothenburgtimes.com

3/18/10 (Shiprock, NM): Read the Daily Time’s article “Atsá Biyááh works hard to get students ahead of reading benchmark” to see how one school modifies the intensity of reading instruction for at-risk students based on the results the DIBELS benchmark assessment. www.daily-times.com

4/6/10 (Muskogee, OK): Pershing Elementary School was recognized with a $44,000 grant to assist with reading instruction thanks to significant gains the school made under Reading First, in part thanks to DIBELS. See the Muskogee Phoenix article “Elementary school recognized with $44,000 federal grant” for more information. www.muskogeephoenix.com

4/7/10 (Beatrice, NE): Read about a creative reward students received at Tri County Elementary School for completion of a reading challenge and how it affected DIBELS score in the Beatrice Daily Sun article “Tri County’s Princi’gal’.” www.beatrice日常sunn.com

4/7/10 (Ruston, LA): Ruston Elementary literacy coach Jane Watson was selected as the recipient of Louisiana’s First Lady Award for her efforts in organizing a summer enrichment program to promote literacy skills, using DIBELS to track progress. Read more in the Ruston Leader’s article “Mrs. Jindal honors local educator.” www.rustonleader.com

4/28/10 (Mankato, MN): See the Mankato Free Press’s article “Kindergarten grades for readiness look solid” for how Minnesota uses DIBELS to gauge kindergarten readiness. www.mankatofreepress.com


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Transitioning to DIBELS Next: Four Considerations

Ready to make the switch to DIBELS Next? There are four important issues to consider when transitioning.

Materials. The published version of DIBELS Next is available to order from Sopris at www.sopris-learning.com. The published version is in color and the materials come in a convenient flipbook format.

The download version of DIBELS Next is posted on the DMG website, http://dibels.org/. Keep in mind that you will need to register to download the Next materials even if you currently download the DIBELS 6th Edition materials. Please note that the scoring booklets are designed to be printed on legal-size paper.

Training. DIBELS Next uses all new administration directions and includes two new measures: FSF and Daze. Therefore, your assessment team will need to update their training. DMG is offering a DIBELS Next Transition Workshop both in person and online that is designed for current DIBELS 6th Edition users who will be transitioning to DIBELS Next. There will also be a DIBELS Next Essential Workshop for users who are new to DIBELS or who would like a more in-depth refresher training. See the side bar on this page for dates and locations of in-person training events.

Data Management. There are many data management services that currently support DIBELS 6th Edition. We recommend that you contact your data management service directly to find out if it will be supporting DIBELS Next starting this fall. The most common data management service, the University of Oregon’s DIBELS Data System, will support DIBELS Next for the upcoming school year. Wireless Generation’s mCLASS:DIBELS Next will be available starting in the 2011–2012 school year. Sopris, the publisher of DIBELS, will be providing a new data management service for DIBELS Next in the fall called DIBELS Next VPORT.

Feasibility. Not all schools will be able to transition to DIBELS Next for the 2010–2011 school year. DIBELS 6th Edition materials will continue to be available for two years to give schools time to transition to DIBELS Next. If for any reason your school would be challenged by switching to DIBELS Next this year (i.e., budget constraints, lack of professional development days), then waiting for one year to switch to DIBELS Next may be your best option.

Getting your Questions Answered about DIBELS Next

Find out who to ask for all your DIBELS Next questions and concerns.

Questions regarding DIBELS Next download content, materials, training, and technical adequacy

Contact DMG, the authors of DIBELS, for questions regarding all of the above mentioned topics. Call 541-431-6931 Monday through Friday between 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Pacific Standard Time or email info@dibels.org.

Questions regarding DIBELS Next data management

For questions regarding data management for DIBELS Next, you should contact your data management service directly. The most common service, the DIBELS Data System, is run by the University of Oregon and can be contacted at support@dibels.uoregon.edu. If you currently use Wireless Generation’s mCLASS: DIBELS and would like information about transitioning to mCLASS: DIBELS Next, contact Wireless Generation directly at 800-823-1969 or help@wgen.net. Wireless Generation has announced that mCLASS DIBELS Next will be available for the 2011–2012 school year.

Questions regarding the published DIBELS Next materials

If you have questions about the published version of DIBELS Next, please contact the publisher, Sopris, at 800-547-6747 or customerservice@sopriswest.com.

Eugene, OR, DIBELS Next Training Institute, July 12–15

The Eugene DIBELS Next Training Institute will be led by DIBELS Authors Ruth Kaminski and Roland Good. DIBELS Next Essential, DIBELS Next Transition, and DIBELS Next Mentoring Workshops will all be offered during the four-day Institute. For more information or to register, visit www.dibels.org.

DIBELS Next Transition Workshops

DMG will be offering several DIBELS Next Transition Workshops through our Regional Trainings. Upcoming workshops will be held in Chicago, IL, on June 28 and in Columbus, OH, on August 12. The DIBELS Next Transition Workshop is designed for current DIBELS 6th Edition users who would like to update their training for DIBELS Next. For more information or to register, visit www.dibels.org.

Chicago, IL, DIBELS Next Training Institute, August 17–20

DIBELS Author Ruth Kaminski and DMG Director of Professional Development Kathleen Petersen will present a four-day DIBELS Next Institute in Chicago. Participants can choose from three workshops that will be offered: DIBELS Next Essential, DIBELS Next Transition, or DIBELS Next Mentoring. For information and registration, visit www.dibels.org.

Email dibelsnews@dibels.org today to start receiving your own electronic copy of the DIBELS Next Newsletter!